

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests allowance of the subject application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-3, 5-10, 12-17 and 19-20 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 8 and 15 being independent. Claims 1, 8 and 15 have been amended. Claims 4, 11 and 18 are canceled. Support for claim amendments and additions can be found in the original disclosure at least in the canceled dependent claims 4, 11 and 18.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the outstanding Action, the Office objects to claims 4, 11 and 18 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but states that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Applicant sincerely thanks the Office for this indication of allowable subject matter.

Independent claim 1 is amended to incorporate dependent claim 4 and is therefore allowable.

Independent claim 8 is amended to incorporate dependent claim 11 and is therefore allowable.

Independent claim 15 is amended to incorporate dependent claim 18 and is therefore allowable.

Because each of the pending independent claims stands allowable, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims 1-3, 5-10, 12-17 and 19-20 stand allowable.

Claim Rejections under §102(e)

Claims 1-3, 5-10, 12-17, 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,535,920 (hereinafter “Parry”).

Claims 1-3, 5-10, 12-17, 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 7,047,554 (hereinafter “Lortz”).

Claims 1-3, 5-10, 12-17, 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,088,018 (hereinafter “DeLeeuw”).

Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections. Nevertheless, for the sole purpose of expediting allowance and without conceding the propriety of the Office’s rejections, Applicant has amended each of the independent claims as discussed above. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that the outstanding §102(e) rejections are moot. Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims stand allowable.

Conclusion

All of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant requests a Notice of Allowability be issued forthwith. If the Office's next anticipated action is to be anything other than issuance of a Notice of Allowability, **Applicant respectfully requests a call to discuss any remaining issues.**

Respectfully Submitted,

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